

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING: 2 January 2024

Attendees: Russ Kroshus, Janette Fetch, Wayne Maruska, Ed Stern, Bob Wefald, Dan Rustvang, Mamie Havelka, and Bob Bird

Meeting Minutes: are posted on the website. www.americanlegionbismarck.org

Financial Report: Completed by Bob Wefald and passed out to the Executive Committee members. \$370,000 bonds averaging 4.985%. \$107,000 CDs averaging 5.3%. Edward Jones Money Market \$1,662.00 and checkbook balance \$46,306.00. Gaming Funds as of 30Nov23 Foundation \$617,364 and Post 1 Admin Gaming expenses \$51,190.

Mamie asked for a motion to accept the financial report subject to audit. Motion was made by Ed Stern, second by Russ Kroshus. Motion carried.

Open Your Heart: Darcie Handt (not final report)

Clothing Event (Target); Two clothing events took place at Target, a second clothing day was scheduled for those applicants that called by a certain deadline (6 families).

224 clothing applications. 176 attended and 48 no-shows. 364 received clothing.

Projected \$25,180.00 to be spent on clothing, spent \$19,602.57.

\$7,500 in gift cards left, that is an immediate item purchased for next year.

Food Baskets: 387 applications for food. 1,278 individuals were provided food and 473 of this number were children. Only 4 baskets were undeliverable (went to heavens helpers).

Delivery this year was scheduled from 3:00-9:00 p.m., we finished by 5:30 p.m.

We should have had a few more people helping load vehicles.

Food boxes were purchased through Cashwise for \$1.65 per box

Food vouchers were in the food boxes, this replaced the poultry items. Different values based on the family size.

300 Food boxes were delivered to schools, we received 254 boxes back full of food. Freedom riders dropped off and picked up boxes at the large schools. Another National Guard Group dropped off and picked up the boxes from all the other (smaller) schools.

Donations to date: \$60,615.54.

Expenditures to date: \$67,000.00

Started this year's OYH with \$75,000 in the bank, now we are around \$70,000.

Post 1 donated \$7,500.00 to the Open Your Heart Campaign this year.

Open Your Heart is looking for a new treasurer/finance person for next year's campaign

The banners worked perfect for clothing and food basket event.

Beth Handt is the admin and will not be receiving payment, she is a volunteer.

The post should send flowers (\$50-\$60) to Beth Handt – Janette will take care of that.

Nomination Committee:

The nomination committee for the slate of officers should be the past three commanders. It is not in the by-laws. The names should be announced in March, April if voting, Election of Officer is in May.

Department Conferences/Conventions:

The Department would like 2028 conference/packets in by 16Jan24, with a presentation date with CVB of 26Jan2024. The department will decide which posts will host the conference and convention.

American Legion Post 1 will present for the 2028 Winter Conference and the Department Convention. Adjutant will let Department know Post 1 will be putting bids in. A post member needs to be present when CVB presents. Mamie will do it as a last resort. Who else would like to present.

Current Winter Conference Dates/Locations:

2024-Bismarck (24-28 Jan 2024) – hosted by Washburn Post

2025-Minot (24-26 Jan 2025)

2026-Mandan (23-25 Jan2026)

2027-Minot (29-31 Jan 2027)

2028 – bids will be presented at the 2024 winter conference on 26Jan2024.

Current Department Conventions/Locations:

2024-Bismarck (20-23 Jun2024) – hosted by Loyd Spetz Post 1

2025-Fargo (27-29Jun2025)

2026-Fargo (26-28Jun2026)

2027-Williston (25-27Jun2027)

2028 – bids will be presented at the 2024 winter conference on 26Jan2024

Winter Conference hospitality room – it was decided last executive committee that Mamie cannot spend more than \$1,000.00.

State Convention – Mamie Havelka should be elected Department Commander at the State Convention

Honor Guard:

Next training will be the fourth Tuesday of the month at 6:00 p.m.

We do not have all the sizes for the individuals, we should order the sizes that we need and order again once we get everyone's sizes.

Membership Dues Increase:

Membership dues will be increasing next legion year by \$5.00. Bob Wefald made a motion to use post money to absorb the \$5.00 increase using post funds and do not increase the post dues for the legionnaires. The amount will be left at \$45.00 dues next year, second by Russ Kroshus. Motion Carried.

Discussion: PUFL, once your post dues reach \$48.00 it changes the mathematical equation, increasing the legionnaire PUFL cost.

Post 1 will collect \$45.00 and only \$3.50 will go back to post instead of the \$8.50 as it is now.

American Legion Birthday Meal:

Date: 11 March 2024

Social: 5:30 p.m.

Supper: 6:00 p.m.

Meal: Prime Rib and Shrimp

December Executive Committee options were discussed to either charge nothing, charge \$10, or charge half once we find out what the meal costs were. Last year 56 meals served, 28 Post 1 members. Must RSVP. RSVP options will be online, email, or phone call. A post card will sent out to those members that do not have emails.

Russ Kroshus made a motion that the birthday meal is free for every paid up legionnaire and 1 guest, it was seconded by Bob Wefald. Motion Carried.

Gaming:

Mamie Havelka gave the Post Adjutant the Form 1096 and Form 1099-NEC for the gaming runner, Melissa Long, to give to Haga Kommer for tax purposes. Runner for last year for the contract start date of 1Aug through 31Dec. Per Mamie Havelka from Attorney General's Office instructions. Bob Wefald asked to bring gaming donation report for 2023 to January Post meeting. Mamie Havelka will print one out.

Bob Bird's Gaming Report:

Abused Adult Resource Center: \$500.00

ND American Legion Department Service Officer: \$3,000.00

ND American Legion Children and Youth Program: \$3,000.00

ND American Legion Boys State Program: \$5,000.00

ND American Legion Girls State Program: \$5,000.00

ND Legion Department Commanders Project: \$1,000.00

Total donations: \$17,500

Bob Wefald made a motion to approve the gaming, second by Dan Rustvang. Motion Approved.

most of these checks will be presented at the Winter Conference

Post 1 is receiving a lot of requests from out of town, post 1 will support local requests (Bismarck/Mandan).

For the Good of the Legion:

Russ Kroshus:

Working with Century, Legacy, Bismarck High, St. Mary's, and Shiloh for connections for Boys State. American Legion Baseball will have a minimum of three legion baseball teams this year, maybe four. Registration just started. Nobody will be turned away. They are making slow headway with the girls fastpitch.

BSC Foundation check presentation will be 10 January 2024 at 11:00 a.m., Foundation Office, 1255 Shafer Street.

Janette Fetch:

Read correspondence.

Meeting Adjourned.